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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 405	Press Mis.
Dated 2-5-1876.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

24-11-42

Local Funds.

No. 228. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 11th February 1876, No. 193 :—

ABSTRACT.—Observing that the remissions granted on account of the state of the season in South Arcot District appear to be suitable; sanctioning the entertainment of an extra clerk under the Head Assistant Collector for settlement work; desiring the consideration of the question for transferring Municipal Funds from Virdachellum Circle to Cuddalore in the Financial Department; and calling for a full report of the proposed works, &c.

No. 229. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1876, No. 405.

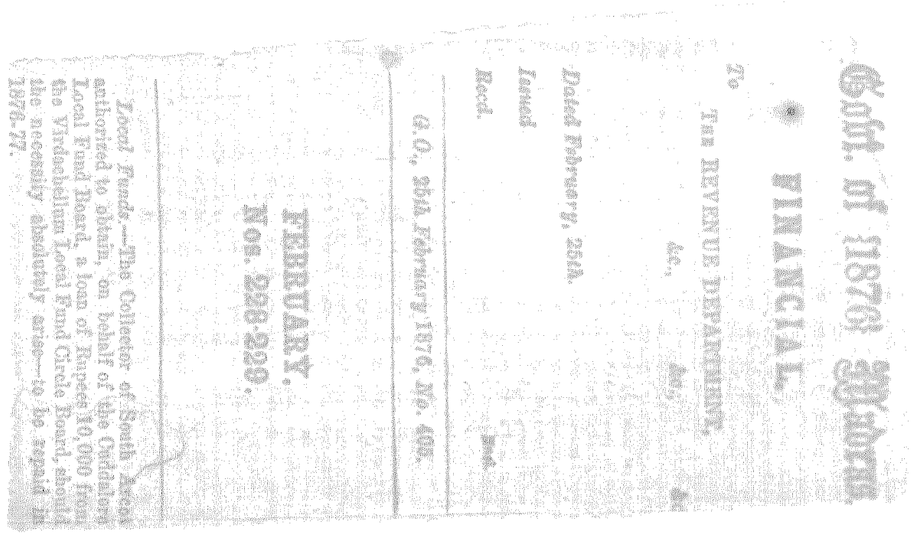
Should necessity absolutely arise for borrowing funds in the Cuddalore Local Fund Circle during the short remainder of the current year, and under the circumstances stated by the Revenue Board as to the position of the Local Fund by their estimate, the Governor in Council authorizes the Collector to borrow not exceeding Rupees 10,000 of the Virdachellum Local Fund Circle Board, under Section 27, Act IV. of 1871, Madras, to be repaid in 1876-77 without fail.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Accountant-General.

Ed. T. O'Connor.



Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th February 1876.

Read the following paper :—

No. 121. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th February 1876, No. 361.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 24th January 1876, No. 29 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward for the Board's perusal Mr. Gibson's report of the 20th instant, No. 27,* and its enclosures, a report* from Mr. Dique, the Tahsildar of Tindivanam, and an abstract of a report from the Merkanam Deputy Tahsildar.*

* Requested to be returned.

2. Mr. Gibson recommends the remission of 50 per cent. of the punjah demand in 102 villages inspected by Mr. Dique, because the crops generally will not yield more than $\frac{1}{4}$th of the average. I cannot support this recommendation. It would create an embarrassing precedent.

3. As to nunjah remissions, I have told him he may act as liberally as the remission rules allow, but that I cannot give him any greater latitude.

4. I beg to recommend that he be allowed an extra clerk on 30 Rupees a month till the settlement is over. His office has always been reported to be short-handed, and he will have plenty to do in settling Tindivanam and Villapuram this year.

5. The Board will observe that Mr. Dique says there is some distress and thinks that some relief is called for. Mr. Gibson does not agree with him. I think it is too early yet to say that relief works are required. I agree with Mr. Gibson on this point. The Merkanam Deputy Tahsildar's report is a very gloomy one, but I await Mr. Gibson's promised report, after visiting the division, before making any recommendations regarding it.

6. As to cultivating tank beds, I see no objection to the plan as an exceptional measure, and have given the permission asked for.

7. I also forward the Deputy Collector's report of the 18th instant, No. 45.† He is unable yet to pronounce an opinion on punjah shavi, and says he cannot do so till after the end of this month. I am inclined to think that the date fixed by the Board for submitting recommendations for punjah remissions is somewhat too early an one, so far as this district is concerned.

† To be returned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Head Assistant Collector's Report.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Report from Tahsildar of Tindivanum.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Abstract of Report from Merkanam Tahsildar.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—Deputy Collector's Report.

From the same Officer, dated Porto Novo, 28th January 1876, No. 41.

In continuation of my letter of the 24th instant, No. 29, I have the honor to state that I have received a demi-official report from the Acting Head Assistant Collector from Bramadesam, half-way between Tindivanam and Merkanam, in which he says that the village officers thereabouts estimate only ⅛th of a punjah crop. The season is, he says, a very bad one, no rain having fallen during October, and only about two inches during November, and none since. As he will not be able to send in his official report before the 31st, he asks that it may be dispensed with, and details can follow.

2. The season no doubt promises to be a very bad one. The failure of water for drinking is already in many parts becoming the cause of great inconvenience, and the Local Fund Board of the Cuddalore Circle have no funds available for laying out on improving the village water-supply beyond what has been allotted in the current year's Budget. I should be glad if I might be authorized to draw against the Virdachellam Circle, Local Fund balances to the amount of Rupees 10,000, if necessity for so doing should arise, and if funds to that extent are available. Out of an allotment for the current year in the Cuddalore Circle of 8,000 Rupees for improving water-supply, village-sites and scavengering, about 3,300 is still unexpended, but will be placed at the disposal of divisional officers immediately. It would have been placed at their disposal before, but that owing to an adjustment in the current year of advances made last year, but unadjusted during its currency, the expenditure up to the end of December exceeded the total grant, and a fresh allotment in adjustment of the advances had to be made before the said balance could be set free for expenditure, and this having been done, there are hardly any funds left in hand.

3. As to remissions, I consider that nunjah remissions will be necessary pretty generally over the district, while as to punjah, so far as my information goes, such remissions will be required in about 200 villages of the Tindevanam Taluq, in nineteen villages in Cuddalore, and in thirty in Chedambaram. The Tahsildar of the last-named taluq has reported to the Sub-Collector on the point, but I have not yet received the report. He tells me that he estimates the remissions at 4,000 Rupees. The loss he says is entire on the punjah lands, on which paddy is grown by means of the rain-fall only. I am doubtful, however, whether Manavari nunjah lands classed as punjah are entitled to any remission.

4. As there is no time to wait for further reports from the other divisional officers, I make the following propositions with respect to punjah remissions generally in this district for this year. That such remissions may be given only if the crops on at least one-third of the extent of punjah holdings in any village have completely failed. In such cases the total amount of remission to bear to the total punjah assessment on holdings in such village the same proportion that the area on which crops have failed bears to the total area of such holdings in the village. In calculating the area of crops which have failed, indigo and ground-nut to be taken into the calculation, but no remission to be given on account of these crops any where. I except them because they are so remunerative in good

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11*th February* 1876.

years, that if in one year out of five they give a good yield, the profit covers the loss from poor crops during the other four.

The letters above read contain the Collector's proposals for the grant of remissions in consequence of the adverse nature of the season in those portions of the districts affected by the drought. He considers that nunjah remissions will be necessary pretty generally throughout the district, and has instructed the Head Assistant, in whose division principally relief appears at present to be required, to act as liberally as the remission rules allow. As regards punjah he proposes to limit the grant of remission to those tracts in which the crops have completely failed on at least one-third of the extent of the punjah holdings, the remission being fixed in the same proportion to the total punjah assessment of the village as the area affected bears to the total area of the punjah holdings. This proposal is approved, and the Board authorize the Collector to issue instructions accordingly. The Manavari nunjah lands classed as punjah should be treated like the ordinary punjah lands, and remission granted when necessary on the same principle.

2. The Board approve the Collector's permission to cultivate tank beds as an exceptional measure.

3. The Board support the Collector's recommendation that an extra clerk on Rupees 30 a-month be allotted to the Head Assistant until the settlement is over, and request the sanction of Government for his entertainment.

4. As regards the Collector's request to be allowed to draw against the Virdachellam Circle Local Fund balances to the extent of Rupees 10,000, in consequence of the paucity of funds to credit of the Cuddalore Circle, the Board observe that according to the Board's regular estimate for the current year, the transactions of the General Fund of the latter Circle are expected to result in a *plus* balance of Rupees 27,640, though in the President's regular estimate no surplus was anticipated. The actual balance cannot be ascertained until the close of the current year, but in the mean time the Board request the sanction of Government to the proposed transfer, if necessary, subject to adjustment after the close of the year, or by a special grant from Provincial Funds.

5. Mr. Garstin should submit a rough scheme of relief works, showing how he proposes to expend the money and in what localities, special attention being paid to the construction and repair of wells, as directed by Government in the case of North Arcot.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 122. Order thereon, 11th February 1876, No. 193.

Miscellaneous.

The remissions allowed appear suitable.

2. The Governor in Council sanctions the entertainment of the extra Clerk (paragraph 3).

3. The proposal in paragraph 4 will be disposed of in the Financial Department. A full report of proposed works, &c., should be immediately made (paragraph 5).

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.

Ex^d. W. H. French.

Revenue Dept.
Cash Acct.

Financial Department
(Local Funds.)

Govt. of India.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 11th.

Read. -4- 25?.

Encl.

G.O., 11th February 1876, No. 193.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 121-122.

No. 500

4 16.

State of the season in South Arcot District.
—Observing that the remissions granted
account of the — appear to be suitable; regretting
ing the entertainment of an extra clerk under
Head Assistant Collector for settlement work
desiring the consideration of the question for
ferring Municipal Funds from Vridhachalam
to Cuddalore in the Financial Department;
calling for a full report of the proposed works, &c.

25 February 1876

4 23/2

Govt. of 1876 Madras.

Financial

G.O. 25 February 6 No. 405

Nos. 228-9

Local Funds. The Collector of South Arcot authorized to obtain on behalf of the Cuddalore Local Fund Board a loan of Rs 10,000 from the Vridachellum Local Fund Circle Board, should the necessity absolutely arise. To be repaid in 1876-7.